

APPENDIX A
PRESENTLY PENDING CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A medium for growing *Lactobacilli* comprising:
a milk-derived base; and an additive system that comprises at least four free amino acids, at least two nucleosides, and iron, in amounts sufficient in combination to promote growth of *lactobacilli* in the medium.
2. (Twice Amended) The medium according to claim 1, wherein the nucleosides are ribonucleosides, each added in the range of from about 10 to about 500 milligrams per liter of the medium.
3. (Twice Amended) The medium according to claim 1, wherein the nucleosides are selected from the group consisting of adenosine, guanosine, cytidine, and uridine, and wherein the at least four amino acids added comprise cysteine.
4. (Twice Amended) The medium according to claim 3, wherein the nucleosides consist essentially of adenosine and guanosine; cytidine and uridine; or mixtures thereof.
5. The medium according to claim 1, wherein the amount of iron added is in the range of about 10 to 200 milligrams of iron per liter of the medium.
6. The medium according to claim 1, wherein the at least four amino acids added comprise cysteine, alanine, serine and isoleucine, each in an amount ranging from about 10 to about 200 milligrams per liter of the medium.
7. The medium according to claim 1, further comprising a compound that provides antioxidant or reducing activity.
8. The medium according to claim 7, wherein the compound that provides antioxidant or reducing activity is selected from the group consisting of cysteine, thioglycollic acid, ascorbic acid and mixtures thereof.

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9. (Twice Amended) The medium according to claim 1, further comprising added magnesium and aspartic acid, and wherein the nucleosides comprise free bases.

10. (Twice Amended) The medium according to claim 9, wherein the at least four amino acids added comprise cysteine, alanine, serine and isoleucine, each in an amount ranging from about 10 to about 200 milligrams per liter of the medium; wherein the nucleosides added are each in the range of from about 10 to about 500 milligrams per liter of the medium; and wherein the iron added is in the range of about 10 to about 200 milligrams per liter of the medium.

11. The medium according to claim 1, wherein the milk-derived base comprises whole milk, partially de-fatted milk, skim milk or ultra-high temperature pasteurized milk, whether the milk-derived base is prepared from natural sources or from dried milk powder by addition of water.

18. The medium according to claim 1, comprising the following: adenosine, guanosine, cytidine and uridine in an amount of 0.1 g/l each; alanine, serine, isoleucine, cysteine in an amount of 0.05 g/l each; and FeSO₄ in an amount of 0.1 g/l.

19. (Amended) A medium for growing *Lactobacilli* comprising: a milk-derived base; and an additive system that comprises at least four amino acids, at least two nucleosides selected from the group consisting of adenosine, guanosine, cytidine, and uridine each added in the range of from about 10 to about 500 milligrams per liter of the medium, and iron in the range of about 10 to 200 milligrams of iron per liter of the medium to promote growth of *lactobacilli* in the medium.

20. The medium according to claim 19, wherein the at least four amino acids added comprise cysteine, alanine, serine and isoleucine, each in an amount ranging from about 10 to about 200 milligrams per liter of the medium.

21. The medium according to claim 19, further comprising a compound that provides antioxidant or reducing activity selected from the group consisting of cysteine, thioglycollic acid, ascorbic acid and mixtures thereof.

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22. The medium according to claim 21, further comprising added magnesium and aspartic acid.